

EARTH RADIATION

The Invisible Risk to Health

Harmful Earth ray emissions can be detrimental to humans, animals and plants, but their effects can be avoided by taking simple preventive measures.

Part 1

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NOXIOUS RAYS FROM UNDERGROUND

In 1975, Herbert Douglas, a businessman living in Shaftsbury, Vermont, USA, drove to a neighbouring town on a mission of mercy. Arriving at his destination, he took out a plastic dowsing rod and went over every room in a two-storey house, being particularly careful to check the area around and under the bed where a twelve-year-old girl with a double curvature of the spine had been sleeping since early childhood.

Douglas found that the house itself had an unusually high number of water veins flowing beneath it and that there were no less than thirty-five intersections of veins under the afflicted child's bed. He immediately suggested to the distraught parents that the bed be moved to a part of the house where no veins would run under it. For the next ten days the child told her parents that the chronic pain in her spine was increasing. Then the pain suddenly began to diminish, to the befuddlement of the girl's doctor who noticed, during a visit to fit her for a full body brace, that the curvature had noticeably decreased.

Several months later Douglas received a letter from the child's mother stating that her daughter no longer was suffering any pain at all and that the curvature had diminished sufficiently to obviate any necessity for the brace.

The notion that the onset of disease might be linked to telluric emanations came to Douglas as a persistent theme in observations by English authors. Before World War II, in his book, *Dowsing*, W. M. Trinder had written: "There seems to be very little doubt that rays given off by subterranean water are, if continuous contact is maintained with them, definitely harmful to both human beings and plants. I have known instances of people suffering from nerves and also cases of rheumatism. In all these cases the sufferers were spending a large part of every twenty-four hours right over a subterranean stream, and this was slowly having the most deleterious effect on their health."

Echoing Trinder, Marguerite Maury in her own book, *How to Dowse*, stated: "Whatever may be the cause of telluric emissions—sheets of water, subterranean streams or dry faults—the effects produced on the health of animals and human beings is nearly always harmful. If there are several streams superimposed, the emission at the surface will be particularly bad."

The French dowsing expert, Abbé Mermet, Douglas found, also insisted that water veins could produce ill effects on human health. He wrote that radiations associated with them were "transmitted from floor to floor in any house situated above them. One may be exposed to them in a workshop, a factory, an office as well as in the flat on the tenth floor of a building. It is in a bedroom that their presence is the most harmful for, in such a case, the affected individual is not only subjected to the bad effects of such radiations but is also deprived of sound and regenerating sleep. Impaired health results in consequence, and the affected person suffers from various ailments which neither he nor the doctor can account for."

Wondering whether there was any substance to the idea, Douglas began checking the beds of people who complained of arthritis to find that his rod *always* detected veins of water beneath them and, more significantly, that two or more veins crossed directly under the part of the body that hurt.

In a two-part article in the Bennington (Vermont) *Banner*, Douglas reported that every one of the patients who had begun sleeping in a new location experienced a substantial reduction or complete disappearance of arthritic pain within periods of time ranging from five days to three months. Forwarding these findings to US health authorities in Washington, DC, he elicited a reply characterising his results as "intriguing and seeming to call for additional investigation".

In his newspaper account, Douglas concluded that there was no scientifically established relationship between arthritis and underground influences and no logical explanation of why arthritic patients should improve when their beds were moved. However, he added: "It would appear that the research of medical men overseas, coupled with my own experience and that of other dowzers on the matter of underground irritation, is persuasive evidence that some diseases may be related to their underground forces."

By the end of 1976, in an area less than fifty miles from his home, Douglas had found underground veins of water intersecting under the sleeping places of fifty-five patients being treated for arthritis, twenty-five of whom had their beds moved, at Douglas's direction, to areas free from flowing water veins.

The literature he had perused also hinted that sleeping over water veins could cause cancer. When one of his friends, a woman in her thirties, fell ill with breast cancer, Douglas dowsed around her bed to find that his rod produced so many reactions he could not count the veins.

In 1978 Douglas reported: "I have now checked twenty cancer cases of different kinds and in nearly all of them got an almost uncountable number of dowsing signals coming from water veins or, less frequently, clefts or breaks in rock ledge underground. I thought that the underground veins could be best illustrated if I laid out a series of wooden laths on the bed to show the direction of their flow. When I did this, I asked the person who slept in the bed to lie down in the position they normally assume when falling asleep. Repeatedly, the crossing of the laths indicates precisely where the person is afflicted."

"Over a period of ten years, I've checked sixty cases of arthritis, twenty cases of cancer, and nine cases of cataracts. In every single one of them I found dowsing reaction lines intersecting under the affected part of the body. In every cancer case but one I found a network of water veins creating anywhere from thirty to fifty crossings."

In 1978, Douglas had a German article translated into English and discovered that his own findings had been paralleled by those of Dr Joseph Kopp of Ebikon, Switzerland—a consulting geologist who, for years, had dowsed successfully for water in his country, including commercially valuable hot mineral springs for the communities of Zurzach and Eglisau on the shores of Lake Constance.

That radiation from subterranean water veins might be linked to disease came to Kopp's attention in the Swiss Rhine Valley community of Grabs, in Sankt Gallen canton, where he detected a water vein flowing directly under a new barn. Asked whether there had been cases of animal disease in the barn, a Grabs village official simply swung its door back to reveal it empty. So many animals had become ill when housed in it, he said, that it had been abandoned.

Kopp went on to conduct a personal dowsing survey of 130 barns in which cows confined for considerable periods of time had a high incidence of maladies ranging from severe rheumatism in the joints and uterine deterioration to marked weight loss and repeated miscarriages. Their calves either developed very poorly or died before maturity. He found that one or more strongly flowing veins of water ran under every one of the buildings he surveyed and that, in many cases, the cattle afflicted with disease were tethered at spots directly above them. Learning of his work,

one hog farmer assured him that sows confined in particular pens would repeatedly eat their litters, and that all the swine in a pen located directly over a water current suffered from bloody flux while animals in adjacent pens free of such an underground influence were healthy.

In several decades of research, Kopp came across hundreds of references on earthly influences and their effects on living organisms. The effect of terrestrial radiation on micro-organisms came to light when, in 1897, an Italian dowser in Piacenza traced a current of water under a dairy producing a large quantity of defective cheese. After several days of experimenting, he observed that cultures of bacteria necessary to cheesemaking would grow normally or abnormally depending on whether they were located over the current or not. Acting on the clue, Kopp went on to discover that what in German are called "Earth rays" could cause potatoes to rot faster, wine or cider to sour, and jams to become mouldy, all of which indicated enhanced activity of microbes.

In 1932, even solid evidence that bacterial growth responded to radiation from veins was put forward by two researchers at the Institute of Biology and Anatomy of the *Technische Hochschule* in Munich. Mice, inoculated with certain disease-producing bacteria, fell ill more rapidly when the cages in which they were restricted were set over a vein of water, and more slowly when the same cages were installed over an area outside the vein's influence, or vice versa, depending on the type of pathogen used. Similar experiments in the Swiss canton

of Aarau showed that the mice located over perturbed zones were in a constant state of agitation, gnawed at their cages, ate their tails, and, though cannibalism is rare among mice, often devoured their offspring.

Strangely, the radiation from the subterranean veins was not harmful to every living thing. Beehives placed over them were attested to produce as much as three times the average amount of honey.

Evelyn Penrose, a British dowser whose prowess won her employment by the government of the Canadian province of British Columbia to locate water for farmers and ranchers during a severe drought, set up a number of hives on the tiny island of Herm in British Columbia Channel. In *Adventure Unlimited*, an account of her life as a dowser, she reported: "After a short time I noticed that some of my hives housed much stronger colonies than others, and I soon discovered that those which did so well were always over a stream of underground water. I then made a minute divining survey of the apiary and put as many hives as possible over the underground streams. The results were invariably good."

Ants appeared to benefit from their effects, since many dowzers discovered that large hills of the insects had been built over watercourses. Certain varieties of trees including oaks, elms, ashes and willows seemed to thrive when rooted over water veins while beeches and various conifers became diseased. One study of 11,000 orchard trees disclosed that, of those planted directly over irritation zones, apples developed cancerous growths on their trunks and cherries an abnormally increased flow of sap. Plums and pears rotted or withered to death.

A crucial finding linked with water vein-associated radiation was first put forward in the 1920s when two German researchers, Winzer and Melzer, divided the city Stuttgart into districts of varying cancer incidence, only to find that they could in no way be

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correlated with the overall stratigraphy or underground rock formations as they had hoped. When dowzers told them to check the five major geological faults that all of them agreed ran under the city, the researchers were astonished to see that the faults traversed those districts with the highest rates of cancer mortality. They promulgated the theory that some kind of radiation emanating from the faults might be an important cause of cancer that had been completely overlooked.

The Winzer-Melzer survey stimulated the German aristocrat Gustav Freiherr von Pohl who, in 1929, began the first systematic study of human cancer and its possible link to zones of noxious telluric radiation. Selecting the Bavarian community of Vilsbiburg with 8,500 inhabitants, he dowsed its entire confines under the watchful eyes of the mayor and local gendarmes who signed a protocol describing the survey. On a 1:1,000 map of the town, von Pohl traced those veins of water which he considered important enough to play a role in cancer etiology, after which they were compared to the plottings of cancer deaths in houses by one Bernhumber, Vilsbiburg's medical adviser. Precise examinations were next made of those houses only partially affected by the water veins, and the beds of cancer patients were confirmed to have actually stood directly above them.

Cancer specialists openly scoffed at the new report which they considered worthless because, as they claimed, the incidence of cancer was so high and Vilsbiburg so small that von Pohl's conclusions about radiation-produced cancer meant nothing.

Not at all dismayed, von Pohl asked the Bavarian Office of Statistics for the name of the community with the lowest incidence of cancer in the whole province. This turned out to be Grafenau, a settlement of 2,000 souls in the Bavarian Forest, where von Pohl made a dowsing survey on 4th and 5th May 1930 to find that each of the persons who had died of cancer during the previous seventeen years had been sleeping over the noxious zones that he had delineated. One-and-a-half years later, a second check determined that ten more cancer victims had succumbed in the interim.

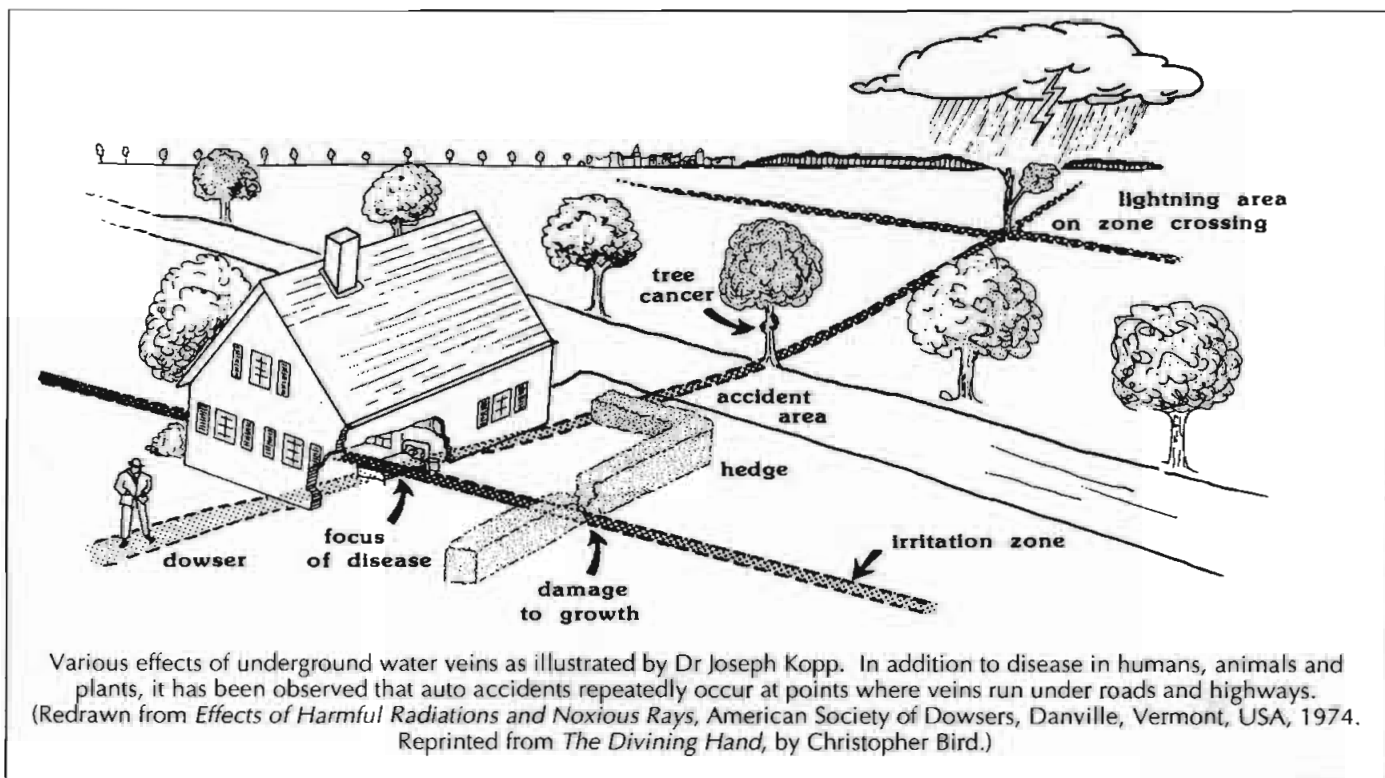
It was the work of French dowsing researchers in the early

1930s that first pointed to a possible physical cause behind harmful radiations. Articles by two authors in the *Côte d'Azur Médicale* detailed how electroscopes—instruments that record the electrical conductivity of the air through the detection of the relative presence of ions (atoms which, by gain or loss of an electron, acquire an electric charge)—revealed a higher degree of conductivity over underground veins than over the area adjacent to them.

The tie between ionising radiation and the incidence of cancer was made during a seven-year-long study by a French engineer, Pierre Cody, just before the outbreak of World War II. Inspired by dowzers who told him that the inhabitants of many houses in the French port city of Le Havre had died of cancer over several generations, Cody used an Elster and Geitel electrometer to check the concentration of air ions at points in the cellars of houses lying directly under more than 7,000 'cancer beds'. His procedure in the house of a Monsieur Truffier, whose wife had succumbed to cancer, was typical. He placed an electrometer in its cellar directly below the exact location of her cancerous growth when she was lying in bed, and an identical instrument a little more than two metres distant. Ten readings taken during a fourteen-hour period revealed that the first device picked up an ion concentration ten times larger than the second. It was further determined that the band of radiation was no wider than a metre and a half.

The second instrument was then moved to within fifty centimetres of the first. Readings taken over a full year at eight, ten, twelve, fourteen and eighteen hours each day showed exactly the same difference in intensity as when they had been more widely separated—a fact that led to the suspicion that the radiation, whatever it was, rose vertically as it came out of the ground and did not diffuse laterally.

This crucially important conclusion has recently been corroborated by the Swiss nuclear physicist, Angelo Comunetti, of Basel. His experiment, specifically designed to check the claim that the reaction field over water veins or geological discontinuities (or both) is *perpendicular*, was performed with the help of Treadwell and Rupp, the two Hoffman-La Roche executives who so success-



fully had dowsed water for their company's proposed factory sites. It took place in the corridors of a long multi-storeyed building where a typical dowsing reaction zone had been correlated with a water vein tapped by a successful well that produced large quantities of water.

On five floors about three-and-a-half metres, one above the other, two reaction zones each about two metres wide were recorded. In spite of three layers of heavy reinforced concrete that separated the top floor from the bottom, the zones of an unidentified radiation, called the D-agent (D for "dowsing") by Comunetti, were found to lie on a straight line that, in this case, deviated fifteen degrees eastward from the vertical. The rod reaction was equally strong for all five floors, indicating no attenuation of the D-agent radiation by the concrete.

His experimentation, said Comunetti, should be repeated in tall buildings and in underground mines as well because it might be of great practical importance for all kinds of geological prospecting.

It occurred to Cody that the telluric emission might be due to radioactivity of some kind. Accordingly, he placed sheets of lead under an electrometer positioned over radiation zones and noted that the time needed for its discharge rose from seven seconds to forty-nine minutes. The normally grey sheets, when left in place for more than a month, became discoloured by peacock-blue or canary-yellow patches, the exact shape and size of the radiation zones presumably causing the discoloration. Both observations indicated the lead was, in fact, blocking a radioactive radiation.

Cody stated in emphatic terms that many cases of physical ailments produced by telluric radiation were ameliorated by moving subjects' beds away from the radiation zone or by screening the zone with lead sheets. In his book, *Experimental Study of Air Ionization by a Certain Radioactivity in the Soil and Its Influence on Human Health*, he wrote that in 491 cases of ill-

ness the afflicted persons would experience an increase of pain during the first several weeks following the installation of a lead sheet, after which a marked improvement was to be noticed in their condition. If the lead sheets were *renewed often enough*, a great many cases were healed and, for the rest, progress of the disease was retarded. If the sheet *was not* renewed, after several months maladies took a sudden turn for the worse.

Though Cody's work was supported by the eminent physicist and director of Duke Louis de Broglie's laboratory, Louis le Prince-Ringuet, the engineer's startling conclusions were given no more attention by the medical world than had been paid to the findings of von Pohl and other German researchers more than ten years before.

After World War II, dowsing scientists in Germany gathered more evidence that biological effects in humans were being caused by exposure to telluric radiation.

Johann Walther, who later received an honorary medical degree, was the first to coin the term "geopathy" for the study of harmful or "geopathic" telluric zones. In his booklet, "The Mystery of the Divining Rod", Walther urged physicians with patients suffering from degenerative disease to have their homes dowsed. Forcing patients back into bed where they could be exposed to noxious radiation he said was like driving horses back into a burning barn.

In 1955, Dr V. Fritsch, a German geophysicist, underscored the need for combined research by dowsers, medical doctors, geolo-

gists and physicists and stated in his book, *The Problem of Geopathic Phenomena from the Viewpoint of Geophysics*: "We must not forget that what has been called the problem of the divining rod is but one of a number of allied problems and that the question of geophysical influences on living beings is one of the greatest importance for biology and, even more significantly, for medicine."

In September of the same year, Dr Joseph Wüst and others for the first time worked with Geiger counters to prove the emission of gamma radiation—one of the chief results of radioactivity—directly under 'cancer beds' in the town of Pleutersbach.

As successive studies of this type were taken up, an engineer, Jacob Stängle, living near the Württemberg metropolis of Ulm, was beginning to design a new instrument that, by the early 1970s, seemed not only to settle the gamma ray 'connection' once and for all but bid fair to fulfill a longstanding dream of dowsers: the creation of a dowsing machine that could prove beyond the shadow of a doubt their assertions that water flowed in veins.

When gamma rays penetrate a crystalline sensor in Stängle's device, they cause it to scintillate, or throw off extremely weak flashes of light emitted by atoms in the sensor-material, as they return to a normal energy state after having been ionised or excited by gamma rays or charged particles passing through the materi-

al. These are converted, in turn, to electrical pulses and amplified millions of times by a photomultiplier tube. Since the magnitude of the pulses of light are proportional to the energy lost by particles traversing the scintillator, they can thus provide information about the energy of particles that can be translated and read out on strip chart recorders or electrical meters.

When 'soft', or lower frequency, gamma radiation from great depth becomes attenuated by the strata through which it passes, the scintillation counter relies on 'hard', or higher

frequency, gamma radiation with more penetrating power and especially on neutrons, atomic particles of neutral charge that move at such high speeds they must be slowed down by a special crystal filter before being detected by the phosphor-sensor in which they produce flashes through nuclear collision.

Over any spot on Earth there is a weak normal 'background' of gamma radiation that is constantly emitted from underground strata. When first switched on, Stängle's machine picks up this background and, as it is wheeled along, registers any variation in the quantity of radiation.

After fifteen years of tinkering with his invention, Stängle, who had no support from private industry or government, was able to report in 1973 that it characteristically revealed a sharp increase in radiation over underground water veins such that reliable conclusions could be made about the depth and even the flow-intensity of any given vein. "Its trustworthiness," wrote the engineer, "has been confirmed by drilling hundreds of wells with such accuracy that one can predict the future possibility of detecting underground water veins precisely."

When medical researchers learned of his new 'dowser on wheels', Stängle was asked to check the old von Pohl findings at Vilsbiburg. Provided with some of von Pohl's originally traced results by Dr Werner Kaufmann of Giessen, he trundled his new

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scintillation counter over three zones in the northern part of the town to find that the pen on his strip chart traced out a sharp increase of radiation similar to that produced by water veins.

Von Pohl's forty-year-old conclusions appeared justified and, as Stängle triumphantly stated: "The principal objection against the existence of pathogenic stimulation zones, namely the inability to objectify them, is no longer valid."

Stängle was invited to France, to the town of Moulins near where a physician, Dr J. Picard, had made his own nine-year study of the incidence of cancer and recorded the dwelling-places for 282 cancer victims. Each house in which a cancer death had occurred was located over a water vein or a geological fracture of some kind.

In one house, a twelve-year-old boy sleeping in the same bed night after night had succumbed to a sarcoma in the right side of his body. The nine-year-old son in another family, which moved into the dwelling a short time later, also developed a sarcoma in his right side, which proved

fatal. He was sleeping in the same bed as the first victim.

Carefully checking his scintillometer readings, Stängle found watercourses intersecting below the house in question and many others that had been associated with Moulins cancer deaths; but Picard, fearful of reprisals against his own practice by official medicine unwilling to admit the connection between cancer and noxious radiations, did not publish his data.

Impressed with Stängle's corroboration of von Pohl's and Picard's work, Dr Dieter Aschoff in the late fall of 1973 published a booklet about it: "Can Official Science Still Deny the Theory that Cancer can be Produced by Stimulation Zones?" In it, he revealed that as far back as 1960 he had been systematically warning his patients to have dowsers check for noxious radiation under areas where they spent extended periods of time.

Unknown to Stängle, Dr Armin Bickel, a German-born research engineer and scientist who began his career at the German development centre in Peenemunde where he worked on the V-2 rocket, and ended it at NASA's Western Missile Test Range in Lompoc, California, was challenged after

his retirement to develop instruments that could be of benefit to geological prospecting in the detection of water, oil, and minerals underground.

After two years of experimentation in his laboratory and tests in the field, Bickel came up with a black box, weighing no more than ten pounds, that compares to Stängle's instrument as the latest model Rolls Royce compares to a Model-T Ford. A supersensitive scintillation counter incorporating a built-in computer with more than 1,800 transistors designed by expert William Cunningham, it is assertedly able to pinpoint with uncanny accuracy the length, width and dip of mineral deposits as well as their approximate quantity at depths as great as 1,000 feet and to detect oil-bearing strata down to 10,000 feet.

[Note: The above article is reprinted from Chapter 15 of Christopher Bird's book, *The Divining Hand: The 500-Year-Old Mystery of Dowsing*, republished in a newly updated edition by Schiffer Publishing Ltd (Whitford Press), Atglen, PA, USA.]

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